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## Biggest Smash Hit of the Last 5 Years Is Quietly Climbing Charts on Another Streamer

By [Jennie Richardson](#) — Aug 1, 2026, 7:47 AM EDT

After its premiere on Crave and HBO, *Heated Rivalry* continues to climb streaming charts, **leading on the Apple TV Store**. Based on the second book in **Rachel Reid's *Game Changers*** series, Season 1 follows the years-long secret romance between rival NHL players Shane Hollander (William Miller) and Ilya Rozanov (**Connor Storrie**). Since the show dropped its Season 1 finale in December, it has only continued to grow in popularity on streaming, both from first-time viewers and **avid fans revisiting**.

If you're watching *Heated Rivalry* for the tenth time or catching up on the *Game Changers* series, and if you're watching Season 2, you can rejoice in the news that **the series is slated to begin production on Season 2 next month**. There will still be a wait for *Heated Rivalry*'s official return, but there is a lot of anticipation based on the source material.

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lry Season 2 will primarily follow the events of *The Long Game*, Book 6 of the Game **eries**, and the second book dedicated to Shane and Ilya's story. A few years after the *eated Rivalry*, Shane and Ilya are in a committed relationship, but they still have to keep it m most of the world. Scott Hunter (**François Arnaud**) certainly changed the game by publicly, but there is still homophobia in the NHL to contend with, and Shane and Ilya are on rival teams. As the two continue to get more serious, they start to consider the of going public with their relationship, even though it could cost them everything.

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The series has already been greenlit for Season 2.

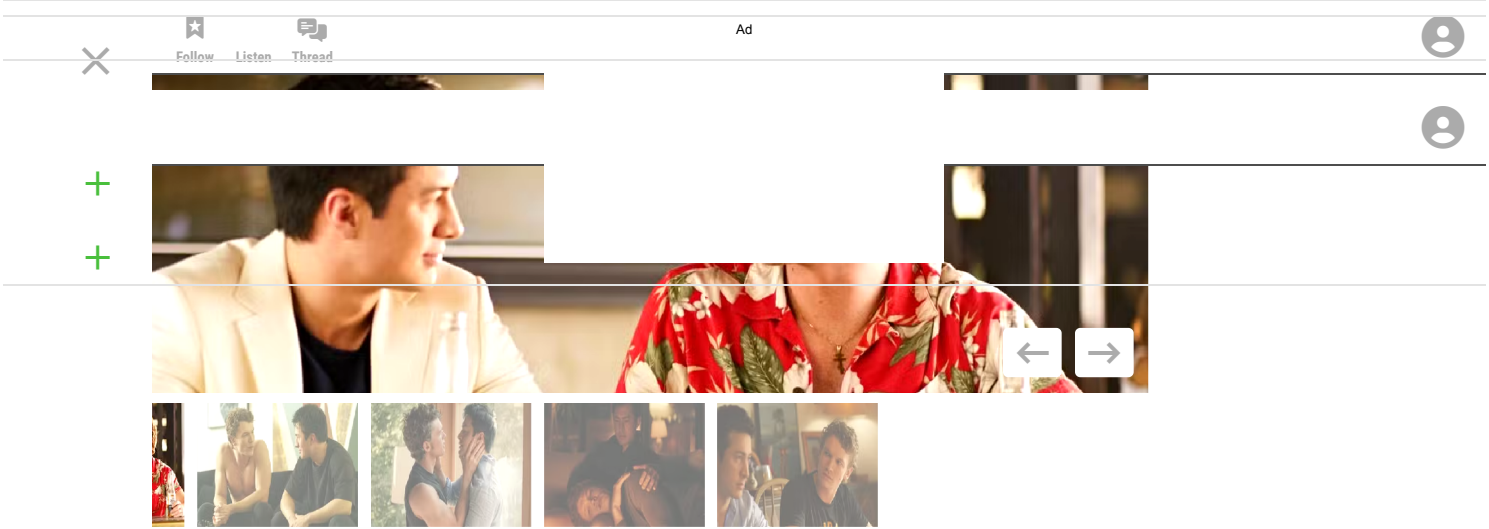
By [Denis Kimathi](#) |

f *Heated Rivalry* was about the buildup of Shane and Ilya's romance, ending with them claring their love for each other and committing to making their relationship work. Still, her doesn't mean "happily ever after," and **keeping their relationship a secret will likely** **oth of them in Season 2**. *The Long Game* also explores Shane and Ilya's respective lth issues, as well as their relationships with the other characters in their lives.

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# Rivalry' Season 2 Will Introduce Fan-Favorite Characters

Image via HBO



**Game Changers** books know that the other players on Ilya's new team, the Ottawa lay an important role in *The Long Game*. Scott and Kip Grady's (**Robbie Graham-Kuntz**) has given some focus in Season 1, adapting their story from their book, *Game Changer*. The main characters of Book 5, *Role Model*, will be introduced in Season 2, as confirmed by author **Jacob Tierney** during a **BookCon panel back in April**. *Role Model* tells the love story of player Troy Barrett and the team's social media manager, Harris Drover.

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For **Heated Rivalry Season 2** rounds the corner, **fans can look forward to some highlights** after **Game Changers** books. While Shane and Ilya will be in an even deeper and more relationship, there are obstacles that they still have to face after becoming an official couple together and separately. Ultimately, like *Heated Rivalry*, *The Long Game* is about Ilya at its core. As such, their romance, as well as their individual character arcs, will be at the heart of the show in Season 2.



### Heated Rivalry

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**Release Date**  
November 28, 2025

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